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Sent: 10/19/2018 3:48:50 PM
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Subject: FW: EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines - Friday - October 19, 2018

Allegheny County Health Fines U.S. Steel, Citing Coke Plant Emissions PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Allegheny County for a second time in four months has levied a significant fine against U.S. Steel, saying the company has continued to exceed air pollution standards at its Clairton Coke Works. The Health Department on Thursday announced it was fining the company \$620,316 “due to continued emissions problems at the Clairton Coke Works facility.” It said the number of violations that happened during the second quarter of 2018 had increased from the previous quarter. In June, the department issued an enforcement order that included a \$1 million fine for similar problems it said occurred during the fourth quarter of 2017 and first quarter of 2018. The department also threatened to shutter two of the worst-performing coke batteries if conditions did not improve over the first six months of 2019.

Gov. Wolf's PFAS Action Team Outlines Public Outreach Plans, Nov. 30 Meeting

Pa. ENVIRONMENT DAILY BLOG

Gov. Tom Wolf's PFAS Action Team held an organizational meeting Thursday and announced it has opened a comment period to take public input regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and is inviting proposals for expert presentations to the Action Team at a public meeting to be held on November 30. “Public comment, expert presentations, public meetings, and additional testing can help us develop a clear path forward, including more fully defining state agency roles to ensure we are doing all we can to address this problem,” Gov. Wolf said. Gov. Wolf signed an executive order forming the PFAS Action Team on September 19, as one of a series of steps to address PFAS contaminants across the commonwealth and protect Pennsylvania residents.

Why the lag in science overhaul? It's 'complicated' GREENWIRE

The proposed rule, which some administration officials had hoped to finalize quickly — possibly even before EPA's science advisers could weigh in — is now on pace to be wrapped up in 2020, the Trump administration announced yesterday. The delay was celebrated by environmental groups opposed to the effort, which would restrict EPA's ability to use some pollution studies that protect participants' private health information. But EPA insists it is still moving forward with the effort, albeit at a more measured clip (*Greenwire*, Oct. 17). “I do believe that Administrator Pruitt was perhaps more interested in the politics than in the substance” of the scientific transparency proposal, said Jeff Holmstead, an energy lobbyist at the law firm Bracewell LLP who is close to the Trump EPA. Restricting the use of some health data in the name of “sound science” has long been supported by the tobacco industry and conservative politicians like Pruitt, who previously served as Oklahoma's attorney general (*Greenwire*, June 18). The position on the proposal of acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler — a former coal lobbyist and Senate aide with little flair for politics — is less clear. “I think that without him there, Administrator Wheeler and others realized that — from a policy perspective — this is an important issue, but it's more complicated than the original proposal acknowledged,” said Holmstead, who was EPA's air chief during President George W. Bush's first term. Holmstead, who said he's not working on the issue for clients, supports the aims of the transparency proposal.

Norfolk, Virginia Beach make a \$225 million deal to keep water flowing to the beach through 2060

VIRGINIA PILOT

Usually a business deal is toasted with champagne. Outside of Norfolk's Moore's Bridges Treatment Plant on Thursday, the mayors of Norfolk and Virginia Beach toasted a multi-million dollar agreement with glasses of crystal clear water. Virginia Beach Mayor Louis Jones announced his city had agreed to extend their contract with Norfolk for water treatment services to 2060. A deal between the cities — for Norfolk to store and treat water Virginia Beach pumps in from Lake Gaston, 120 miles to the west — has been in place for more than 20 years and the current contract was good through 2030. Plus, Virginia Beach already has access to more water than it can use. The Lake Gaston Pipeline provides Virginia Beach up to 45 million usable gallons of treated water per day. The city uses around 33 million gallons. So why does the deal include a new rider for Virginia Beach to buy another 10 million gallons of untreated water from Norfolk? According to Jones, that's the cost of doing business. "I guess you'd call it a future investment. The bottom line is Norfolk wants to sell more water and we would be reducing the amount of water we're pumping from Lake Gaston and reducing our energy costs to do that to partially offset the cost of the purchase of the 10 million," Jones said.

DCED OKs \$1.7M In Funding To Help Cleanup 11 Fmr Industrial Sites In 6 Counties

Pa. ENVIRONMENT DAILY BLOG

The Department of Community and Economic Development Thursday announced the award of \$1.7 million in grants and loans from the [Industrial Sites Reuse Program](#) for 11 projects to clean up former industrial sites in Allegheny, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Erie, and Montgomery counties to prepare them for occupation by businesses and residential properties. "These projects will not only protect the environment and remove harmful contaminants from these sites, but will also prepare them for development into residential or commercial property where people can live and work," said Gov. Tom Wolf. "Eliminating blight is a crucial component of growing local economies and improving quality of life in these areas." Because no redevelopment can occur at these properties if they still contain environmental contamination, developers must first undergo extensive environmental cleanup before the property can be put into productive reuse.

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

DEP awards water quality-related grants funded by \$12.6M penalty against Sunoco Money will go to efforts in 14 Pa. counties Remember the [\\$12.6 million penalty on Sunoco](#) for dozens of permit violations during construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline? The Department of Environmental Protection said at the time it would turn that penalty into grants for projects related to water quality, watershed restoration and stormwater management. The DEP just put out a list of where that money is going. Sixty-one grants were awarded to efforts in 14 of the 17 counties through which Mariner East 2 passes. Berks County projects received the most money — \$2.61 million. Efforts in Chester County, the site of vocal public opposition to the project and to problems such as [construction-related sinkholes](#) that opened in parts of West Whiteland Township, received a total of \$1.87 million. DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell said in a news release that Sunoco is still responsible for restoring damage related to its pipeline construction. "But it is nice that this penalty could be put directly towards other fund has broad bipartisan support. "We have the majority of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation signed on to legislation that would permanently reauthorize the fund, and also fully appropriate it," he points out. Bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate that could restore and preserve the Land and Water Conservation Fund for years to come. Walliser stresses support for reauthorization extends well beyond the congressional delegations.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

NOAA: Odds Favor A Mild Winter, But Maybe Not Here On an October Thursday that featured a premature outbreak of overcoats and the atmosphere behaving as though it was Thanksgiving, the government issued its winter outlook, saying odds favor a mild winter in most of the country — but not necessarily around here. The Climate Prediction Center also said that while signals are mixed on our temperatures, chances are good that precipitation will be above normal along the southeast and mid-Atlantic coasts, suggesting an active storm track.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Hopey: Clairton Coke Works Fined Another \$620,000 For Air Emissions

EPA Aims To Triple Pace Of Deregulation In Coming Year

Justice Dept. Asks U.S. Supreme Court To Put Youths' Climate Change Lawsuit On Hold

WHYY PHILADELPHIA

So What's The Climate Change/Asthma Connection? Jefferey Colter was diagnosed with asthma when he was 11, and, even as an adult, he often suffers asthma attacks and ends up in the emergency room when the seasons change. “*You’re* breathing fine and everything, [but] right now I’m going through hell,” Colter says. “I can barely breathe, and ... I’d rather be home right now on some medications or something, trying to get my lungs open up so I can breathe. But I got a mortgage, I got kids, I got bills I got to pay, so I have to come to work on 50 percent.” Each ER visit costs about \$500, he says. “It is a very hard task to deal with asthma. Like I said, I barely get any sleep. I’m tossing and turning, waking up from asthma,” Colter says.

Mapping Philly’s Most Walkable Neighborhoods Ann Strickland, 87, has lived in the southwest corner of Eastwick for 37 years. Her small community of single-family homes sits right across from the John Heinz National Wildlife Conservatory at Tinicum. Not far from Philadelphia International Airport, the area is isolated, and barren of the attractions that line the streets in busy parts of the city, where residents can have most of their needs met without getting behind a steering wheel, or summoning someone who is. Which is why an online tool from New York University School of Medicine shows that Strickland lives in the least walkable area of the city. The City Health Dashboard rated the area southwest of the Bartram Avenue and 84th Street intersection, part of the 19153 zip code, three out of 100 on the scale of walkability. The metric quantifies the “density of intersections and residences” and accessibility to places such as grocery stores, parks, and restaurants.

Feds Allow Emergency Planning Reduction Near Closing Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted the operator of Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in New Jersey permission to amend the plant’s emergency plan, officials say. Exelon Generation had requested a reduction in emergency planning requirements after it permanently defueled the Oyster Creek reactor, according Neil Sheehan, a public affairs officer at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The decision will allow the operator to discontinue the Emergency Planning Zone within a 10-mile radius of the Lacey Township plant and eliminate the use of emergency sirens. But the changes cannot be

implemented until 12 months after the plant's closure, allowing the spent fuel to cool sufficiently to reduce the risk of a fire and radioactivity spread, Sheehan said.

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

Silberline Expanding In Lehigh Valley To Produce Pigments For Eco-Friendly Coatings

Here's Why DCNR Gave Bethlehem \$1 Million

ALTOONA MIRROR

Sauro: Mariner East 2 Pipeline Fines To Fund Blair County Projects Money from a fine paid by Sunoco Pipeline LP will fund a handful of watershed restoration and stream protection projects in the area and others across the state. The state Department of Environmental Protection announced this week how money from a \$12.6 million fine imposed because of violations during construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline will be distributed. Local communities will receive \$1,328,443. Statewide, 61 projects in 14 counties will be funded. *"One thing that all of these projects have in common is that they will improve Pennsylvania's water,"* DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell said in a statement. The funding stems from a civil penalty handed down by DEP officials in April to Sunoco Pipeline LP, a subsidiary of Energy Transfer Partners.

STATE COLLEGE CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Could This New Software Mean The End Of Snow Days At Penn State? Since 2010, Penn State's University Park campus has only had three full snow days. Now, thanks to a recent graduate, snow days could become scarcer. Achal Goel, who graduated in May with a master's degree in industrial engineering, developed a software that could make snow removal on University Park's campus more efficient and less costly. The software, run through Excel, is called "Real-time Optimization for Adaptive Removal of Snow," or ROARS. Goel said it's "flexible and easy to use." Previously, Office of Physical Plant — which oversees snow removal from campus roads and parking lots (the focus of the project); walkways; and building entrances — never used any engineering tools to optimize the process, Goel said.

YORK DISPATCH

Editorial: Keeping The Wild Spaces York County has a lot of natural spaces. After all, there are three state parks in the county. We have 11 county parks, four state game lands and countless township, borough and city parks. Kiwanis Lake in York City is designated an important bird area by the Audubon Society, one of 85 in the state and the only urban site that sees nesting egrets and herons each summer. Private land near Codorus State Park is home to some of the most famous bald eagles in the world, with the state Game Commission running a live stream of the nest each year. And there is a lot more private land that isn't developed. Just look around — there are clumps of trees and underbrush in many spaces, especially near creeks and on steep hills.

PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENT DIGEST BLOG

Gov. Wolf's PFAS Action Team Outlines Public Outreach Plans, Nov. 30 Meeting Gov. Tom Wolf's PFAS Action Team held an organizational meeting Thursday and announced it has opened a comment period to take public input regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and is inviting proposals for expert presentations to the Action Team at a public meeting to be held on November 30. "Public comment, expert presentations, public meetings, and additional testing can help us develop a clear path forward, including more fully defining state agency roles to ensure we are doing all we can to address this problem," Gov. Wolf said.

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Keep Philadelphia Beautiful Receives \$5,000 Grant From UPS Foundation For Fruit Tree Planting The UPS Foundation and Keep America Beautiful Thursday announced the award of a \$5,000 grant to Keep Philadelphia Beautiful as part of their Community Tree and Recovery Tree Planting Program. Keep Philadelphia Beautiful is partnering with the Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) to give away fruit trees at no cost to community members through a variety of orchard events in fall 2018 and spring 2019. The tree giveaways will take place in different neighborhoods across Philadelphia to increase the number of city residents with the ability to plant a fruit tree in their yard or community. Fruit trees provide both beauty and bounty, and allow urban residents to produce healthy food right in their own neighborhoods. In addition to increasing food access, city fruit trees provide a wide array of environmental benefits.

TRIB LIVE

Allegheny County Health Fines U.S. Steel, Citing Coke Plant Emissions Allegheny County for a second time in four months has levied a significant fine against U.S. Steel, saying the company has continued to exceed air pollution standards at its Clairton Coke Works. The Health Department on Thursday announced it was fining the company \$620,316 “due to continued emissions problems at the Clairton Coke Works facility.” It said the number of violations that happened during the second quarter of 2018 had increased from the previous quarter. In June, the department issued an enforcement order that included a \$1 million fine for similar problems it said occurred during the fourth quarter of 2017 and first quarter of 2018. The department also threatened to shutter two of the worst-performing coke batteries if conditions did not improve over the first six months of 2019.

Tree Pittsburgh Opens New \$2.6 Million Campus In Lawrenceville Tree Pittsburgh is firmly rooted along the Allegheny River in Lawrenceville and is preparing to open its new \$2.6 million solar-powered campus that includes an education center and large nursery. The 5-acre facility near the 62nd Street Bridge is “technically open” now, according to the nonprofit’s executive director Danielle Crumrine. She said the facility will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. “If all goes well I hope to be sitting at my desk in two weeks,” she said Thursday while offering a tour of the campus to the media and Pennsylvania State Forester Ellen Shultzabarger. The education center and offices are housed in a self-sustaining modular building completely powered by a rooftop solar panel array. It was designed Matthew Plecity, an architect with GBBN Architects, for LEED platinum and net-zero energy certifications. All rainfall from the roof will be captured and used to irrigate the nursery.

CLEAN TECHNICA

Microsoft To Add 90 MW Of New Wind In Pennsylvania Technology giant Microsoft signed a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement this week for the electricity generated at the 90 megawatt (MW) Big Level wind facility currently under construction in Pennsylvania, being developed by renewable energy producer TransAlta Renewables. The Calgary-based TransAlta Renewables bills itself as among the largest of any publicly traded renewable independent power producers in Canada and boasts interests in 20 wind facilities, 13 hydroelectric facilities, 7 natural gas facilities, one solar facility, and one natural gas pipeline, with an ownership interest of nearly 2.5 gigawatts (GW). The company announced on Monday that it had signed a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Microsoft for the electricity to be generated from the 90 MW Big Level wind farm currently under construction in the township of Hector, Pennsylvania. "This project advances our North American growth and investment strategy," said TransAlta Renewables President John Kousinioris. "Microsoft is a leader in procurement of renewable energy and a catalyst for change in how corporate customers can control their energy procurement. We're pleased to collaborate with them on a project that suits their needs and helps them to achieve their sustainability and carbon reduction objectives."

PENN LIVE

Schneck: Fall Foliage Season In PA: Will It Ever Get Here? The drastic cool-down last week failed to deliver the anticipated, major foliage changes across Pennsylvania. That disappointing performance likely was caused by the late production of chlorophyll by many trees during the abnormally warm first two weeks of October, according to Ryan Reed, environmental education specialist with the Bureau of Forestry in the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in this year's fourth Pennsylvania Weekly Fall Foliage Report from the bureau. "Other reasons include anthracnose fungus, storms, and species composition of remaining leaves" he wrote in the report for October 18-24. "Many northern hardwoods like red and sugar maple, which typically give the most vibrant colors across the state, dropped their leaves early."

TROUT UNLIMITED

TU: PA Formally Designates 108 More Wild Trout Streams Bit by bit, Pennsylvania continues to grow its list of wild trout waters afforded special protection. This week, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) officially designated another 109 wild trout streams, ensuring that these economically and ecologically significant fisheries are protected during permitting for new projects. The state has designated 483 streams in 2018 and now has well over 16,000 miles of wild trout water. Trout Unlimited has had an important hand in the work. Identifying wild trout waters among Pennsylvania's 86,000 miles of flowing water is the mission of the state's Unassessed Waters Initiative. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, TU, and other partners send electrofishing crews (below) out each year to survey streams for undocumented populations. TU visited 113 streams in 2018, upping our seven-year total to more than 800 waters.

PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS

PEC: Bill In Congress To Reauthorize Land & Water Conservation Fund Has Bipartisan Support HARRISBURG, Pa. – A federal program vital to conservation efforts in Pennsylvania expired last month, but there's bipartisan support for its permanent authorization. Since 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has brought \$315 million to support more than 1,500 projects in the Keystone State, preserving monuments such as Valley Forge and building local recreation areas. But Congress has frequently failed to spend money from the fund and missed the Sept. 30 deadline for its reauthorization. According to John Walliser, senior vice president for legal and

government affairs for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, a bill to save the fund has broad bipartisan support. "We have the majority of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation signed on to legislation that would permanently reauthorize the fund, and also fully appropriate it," he points out. Bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate that could restore and preserve the Land and Water Conservation Fund for years to come. Walliser stresses support for reauthorization extends well beyond the congressional delegations.

EE NEWS

Sources: FERC Chairman Expected To Step Down The chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission was conspicuously absent from an agency meeting today as speculation mounted that he may soon relinquish his post. Kevin McIntyre, a Trump appointee who has been struggling with health issues, did not attend the gathering at FERC's Washington, D.C., headquarters this morning, nor did he vote on agenda items. He was previously absent from FERC's September meeting due to medical issues, according to an agency source. In recent days, sources close to the commission have said McIntyre could announce he will cede his chairmanship at the agency as early as today and that the White House will subsequently tap FERC Commissioner Neil Chatterjee as chairman. Still, there was widespread uncertainty about any leadership changes, and it remains unclear if or when McIntyre's role may change. The White House said it had no personnel news to share today, but McIntyre's chief of staff, Anthony Pugliese, told reporters after today's meeting his boss will be issuing a statement in the coming days. "I can't say exactly when that'll be or what it'll say," Pugliese told E&E News in a follow-up email.

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

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Berks County projects received the most money — \$2.61 million. Efforts in Chester County, the site of vocal public opposition to the project and to problems such as construction-related sinkholes that opened in parts of West Whiteland Township, received a total of \$1.87 million. DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell said in a news release that Sunoco is still responsible for restoring damage related to its pipeline construction. "But it is nice that this penalty could be put directly towards other

ADDITIONAL CHESAPEAKE BAY-AREA

A Buried Stream Runs Under It
Chesapeake Quarterly

Pride of Baltimore Nonprofit Names New Chairman
Chesapeake Bay Magazine

Surveys find 'healthy' rockfish reproduction in Chesapeake Bay
WTOP (Washington, D.C.) 103.5 FM

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Nets \$10,000 Donation From Natty Boh
CBS 13 (Baltimore, Md.) WJZ - TV

Board of Public Works Awards \$3.8 Million for Baltimore City Parks
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Aiming to Showcase the Best of Pennsylvania's Environmental Stewardship Projects, the Wolf Administration Invites Applicants for 2019 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Maryland unveils newest Chesapeake Bay license plate design ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland drivers can update their expression of Chesapeake pride and help with efforts to “Save the Bay” with a new license plate design that state transportation and environmental officials unveiled Thursday at Sandy Point State Park. The artwork for the new license plate was created by Tina Cardosi and Sujen Buford, of Frederick, Maryland-based design firm TM Design Inc. The new plate is slated to be available for purchase beginning Oct. 29. It's the third iteration of a Maryland Bay-themed tag in 28 years. “We worked along with the trust using focus groups of volunteer Marylanders, who told us that they wanted depictions of icons and wildlife unique to Maryland,” Buford said in a phone interview with Capital News Service.

Don't blame the weather for excessive pollution in Virginia Concerns that the Mountain Valley Pipeline will create massive pollution during the passage of Hurricane Florence were well-founded [“Pipeline officials, environmentalists worry about catastrophic rainfall,” Metro, Sept. 12]. The article quoted Ben Leach of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality blaming extreme weather for the extensive earlier pollution from the pipeline. It said Mr. Leach testified to the Virginia Water Control Board that most storms this year have been greater than the standards of 24-hour rain events that occur once every two years. This was simply not true. The Blacksburg, Va., weather station reports no storms of that intensity this year. Roanoke reports one four-day period in May with storms that may have reached this intensity. Danville reports the same May storm, but for one day only. The extensive pollution is because of DEQ's approval of plans that are deficient. The plans do not take into account the steep, highly erodible slopes through which much of the pipeline passes.

[Magdalin Gomez]

WTOP NEWS RADIO

Surveys find 'healthy' rockfish reproduction in Chesapeake Bay

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Delaware has its day: Newest Navy submarine named in honor of the First State Six years ago, a Newark resident wrote to The News Journal wondering why Delaware was seemingly forgotten each time the U.S. Navy picked names for its new multi-million-dollar vessels. But this weekend, the tide is turning in the First State's favor. On Saturday morning Dr. Jill Biden, the Second Lady of the United States and sponsor of the ship, will smash a bottle of bubbly on the bow of the newest nuclear-powered attack submarine, the USS Delaware (SSN

791). The official invite-only christening ceremony will be held at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia.Gov. John Carney and Sen. Tom Carper, a 23-year Navy veteran who also pressed for a ship to be named after Delaware, will join the festivities among other dignitaries.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

In North Carolina, hurricanes convince some Republicans that climate change is real It took a giant laurel oak puncturing her roof during Hurricane Florence last month for Margie White to consider that perhaps there was some truth to all the alarm bells over global warming. "I always thought climate change was a bunch of nonsense, but now I really do think it is happening," said White, a 65-year-old Trump supporter, as she and her young grandson watched workers haul away downed trees and other debris lining the streets of her posh seaside neighborhood last week, just as Hurricane Michael made landfall 700 miles away in the Florida Panhandle. Storms have grown more frequent - and more intense - over the 26 years she and her husband have lived in Wilmington, White said, each one chipping away at their skepticism. Climate change has even seeped into their morning conversations as they sip coffee - ever since the neighbor's tree came crashing onto their home and property, coming to rest along nearly the entire length of their driveway. While President Donald Trump continued this week to deny the effects of climate change in the face of overwhelming scientific agreement that it is occurring - most recently noted in a landmark United Nations report that he has dismissed - a discernible shift appears to be occurring among Republican voters in North Carolina, a state pummeled by two hurricanes in two years. The impact, say residents of this conservative congressional district, lies right before their eyes, prompting conversations among farmers, fishermen and others on how climate change has hurt the local economy and environment. Downtown streets and parking lots along the Cape Fear River, like those surrounding tourist attractions such as the battleship USS North Carolina, flood regularly, including last week as the remnants of Michael blew through town. Flooding during Hurricane Florence cut off Wilmington from the rest of the state for days. Lagoons full of hog manure on industrial farms northwest of the city overflowed, contaminating water sources and killing fish. Toxic coal ash, too, was released into the river.

Maryland unveils newest Chesapeake Bay license plate design
The Washington Post

Maryland's new Chesapeake Bay license plate highlights blue crab, bay bridge
The Baltimore (Md.) Sun

Bugs and the Bay: Insect populations offer valuable clues to the quality of water entering the Chesapeake
Chesapeake Quarterly

Md.'s Striped Bass Index Above Average, Va.'s Remains Stable
Chesapeake Bay Magazine

Maryland's Chesapeake Bay license plate gets updated look
NBC 11 (Baltimore, Md.) WBAL - TV

New Md. License Plates Benefit The Chesapeake Bay
CBS 13 (Baltimore, Md.) WJZ - TV

New Chesapeake Bay license plate revealed

Fox 45 (Baltimore, Md.) WBFF - TV

DNREC's Nonpoint Source Program offering free trees to Delaware residents in partnership with DDA's Forest Service

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

CBF's Rain Garden Maintenance Specialist Brings Environmental Justice to a Harrisburg Neighborhood

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

A Buried Stream Runs Under It

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MISCELLANEOUS

CNN

The world's largest organism is dying, but there are still ways to save it (CNN) Behold the Pando aspen clone, a sprawling carpet of vibrant green-yellow quaking aspens occupying more than 100 acres outside the Fishlake National Forest in Utah. The "Trembling Giant," as it is known, is actually a massive single organism connected by one sprawling root system. This ancient marvel of nature is thousands of years old -- scientists don't know exactly how old -- and is considered the largest living organism on Earth. Unfortunately, it's also dying. And humans may be responsible

BLOOMBERG ENVIRONMENT

White House signs off on ozone implementation rule

Boston contemplates car-free days

Boston may soon join locales from around the world — from Jakarta to Bogotá to Paris — that have experimented with blocking vehicles from busy streets on certain days.

FERC expects warm winter, ample natural gas supplies

A warmer-than-average winter coupled with sufficient natural gas supplies across most of the U.S. anchors a new forecast by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that is good news for consumers.

5 things to watch on Science panel next year

Change is coming to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee in January, but will there be a sharp shift in direction or simply a passing of the gavel?

GREENWIRE

Why the lag in science overhaul? It's 'complicated' The proposed rule, which some administration officials had hoped to finalize quickly — possibly even before EPA's science advisers could weigh in — is now on pace to be wrapped up in 2020, the Trump administration announced yesterday. The delay was celebrated by

environmental groups opposed to the effort, which would restrict EPA's ability to use some pollution studies that protect participants' private health information. But EPA insists it is still moving forward with the effort, albeit at a more measured clip (*Greenwire*, Oct. 17). "I do believe that Administrator Pruitt was perhaps more interested in the politics than in the substance" of the scientific transparency proposal, said Jeff Holmstead, an energy lobbyist at the law firm Bracewell LLP who is close to the Trump EPA. Restricting the use of some health data in the name of "sound science" has long been supported by the tobacco industry and conservative politicians like Pruitt, who previously served as Oklahoma's attorney general (*Greenwire*, June 18). The position on the proposal of acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler — a former coal lobbyist and Senate aide with little flair for politics — is less clear. "I think that without him there, Administrator Wheeler and others realized that — from a policy perspective — this is an important issue, but it's more complicated than the original proposal acknowledged," said Holmstead, who was EPA's air chief during President George W. Bush's first term. Holmstead, who said he's not working on the issue for clients, supports the aims of the transparency proposal.

U.S. CHAMBER'S PICK LANDED GAVEL OF KEY EPA ADVISORY PANEL

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which regularly opposes tougher environmental regulations, last year succeeded in placing one of its candidates on a key EPA air quality committee, newly released records show. Then-EPA chief Scott Pruitt named Tony Cox, a Denver-based consultant, as chairman of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee last fall after a senior U.S. Chamber executive nominated him for a seat on the panel, the records show. The seven-member committee, often known by its acronym as CASAC, is charged with providing outside expertise to EPA during legally required reviews of the standards for a half-dozen common pollutants. It's now in the early stages of a closely watched assessment of the limits on airborne particulates. In an email exchange, Cox said he did not know that the chamber was behind his nomination until E&E News contacted him late yesterday. Cox said he had no information on why the powerful business lobby chose him. "I hope that it was because of my long-standing commitment to applying objective, transparent, data-driven science and analytics to address important risk analysis questions, along with my insistence on following wherever the data lead," he said. Putting Cox's name in play was Dan Byers, vice president for policy with the chamber's Global Energy Institute. Byers referred questions yesterday to a spokesman, Matt Letourneau. In a statement, Letourneau said the chamber nominated "preeminent scientists who are experts in their fields with outstanding credentials for EPA's consideration. We had no discussion with these individuals about their views on any particular policy or science issue." During the Obama administration, the chamber frequently challenged new environmental regulations. In 2013, for example, it went to court in an unsuccessful battle against EPA's decision to tighten particulate standards. It's also a plaintiff in a pending challenge to the agency's 2015 ground-level ozone changes and in a report has denounced limits imposed that same year on hazardous emissions from the brick industry (*E&E Daily*, Feb. 2, 2016).

Trump taps miner advocate for safety board (Thurs.) Mine safety advocates praised President Trump this week for nominating coal workers' union attorney Arthur Traynor to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. The United Mine Workers of America lawyer joins two more nominees to the five-seat board that shrank to two members in September — not enough to hear disputes involving the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). In a world of worker versus operator, miner advocates fully expected the president to tap another executive. Both of the White House's first two selections, Marco Rajkovich Jr. and William Althen, are former industry attorneys. Traynor would fill the void left by former Commissioner Robert Cohen. Cohen was appointed by President George W. Bush and reappointed by President Obama after a career representing black lung victims against mine owners in West Virginia. His term expired Aug. 30, the same day as Althen, leaving the commission without a quorum. Unlike Althen, Cohen was not nominated for another six-year term. Kentucky attorney and mine safety expert Tony Oppeward, who has argued numerous cases before the commission, called it "a major loss for mine safety advocates." In his last

dissent before leaving the commission, Cohen blasted his colleagues for giving "cover" to a Trump administration deal lifting safety sanctions on a coal company (*E&E Daily*, Sept. 25).

"It was pretty obvious he put a lot of effort into his written decisions or dissents," Oppegard said, "but I think Art Traynor will be the same."

FWS recommends shielding some records from public The Fish and Wildlife Service is recommending that staffers "withhold" certain documents requested by the public on Endangered Species Act decisions in cases where the service can "foresee harm" in future lawsuits challenging those decisions. In a Sept. 6 internal guidance memorandum that's labeled "Confidential and Privileged — Do Not Release," the service "provides recommendations" to staffers on "reviewing, redacting, and withholding deliberative information" requested through the Freedom of Information Act. The seven-page memo, first obtained by *The Guardian* and independently verified by E&E News, suggests FWS should consider withholding draft "versions of policies and rules"; internal "summaries, analyses, and comparative materials"; internal "briefing documents that address pre-decisional substantive issues"; and "decision meeting notes and summaries, score sheets, and memos to file reflecting substantive deliberation and especially participant names, position, or individual decision recommendations," as well as other documents in the "administrative record" produced by the service as part of an ESA decision. The recommendations on preparing "more limited" administrative records is meant to coordinate with guidance from the Department of Justice in an Oct. 20, 2017, memorandum, and appears to be aimed at protecting Fish and Wildlife from future lawsuits challenging endangered and threatened species listing decisions. While noting "it is important to be transparent about agency decisionmaking," the memo also states that FWS has an "obligation" to withhold or redact certain information on ESA decisions in order to "protect deliberations relating to those decisions when analysis allows us to reasonably foresee harm from releasing related documents and information." Earlier, the document states, "Interested stakeholders often send FOIA requests for information regarding FWS's ESA decisions in advance of litigation. In past FOIA responses, FWS has often released most, if not all, documents related to its ESA final decisions without undertaking a discerning review for deliberative materials. DOJ's direction on compiling [administrative records] reinforces that we should take great care with our FOIA responses relating to ESA decisions."

BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard researchers say they may have solved mystery of Beijing's air pollution woes Harvard scientists say the Chinese government might need to look at a new suspect in the deadly air pollution that clouds Beijing. The government has spent billions of dollars to clean up the country's notorious air pollution, focusing on reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide from coal-burning power plants, researchers said. Estimates say more than a million people a year die in the country from particulate air pollution. But extreme pollution events in winter in the Beijing area have been a regular occurrence, researchers said. In a study published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, they assert that a key to reducing the events may be cutting emissions of a previously overlooked chemical: formaldehyde.

NEW YORK TIMES

We're Covering Heritage Sites Threatened by Climate Change. The List Just Got Longer One of the cruelties of global warming is that it threatens humanity's past as well as its future. That was brought into sharp focus by a study issued Tuesday. It says that some of the most important ancient sites in the Mediterranean region — the Greek city of Ephesus, Istanbul's historic districts, Venice's canals — might not survive the era of climate change. Those places joined a list of others that we've covered extensively here at The Times. Our series on cultural heritage has looked at the Cedars of Lebanon, the Stone Age villages of Scotland and the statues of Easter Island, all of which are threatened by climate change.

USA TODAY

Earth's largest organism is dying

Pando, a colony of 40,000 trees in Utah, is shrinking due to failed preservation efforts. The cluster of trees can't expand due to grazing wildlife.

GUARDIAN

Politicians say nothing, but US farmers are increasingly terrified by it – climate change Research forecasts Iowa corn yields could drop in half within the next half-century thanks to extreme weather – yet it's not part of the political conversation. Farmers around here are itching to go after that amber wave of soya beans, but there was that 5in rain a couple of weeks ago and then a 7in rain, and it drives even the retired guys batty. Those beans aren't worth much at the elevator thanks to a Trump trade war with China, but they're worth even less getting wet feet in a pond that was a field which the glacier made a prairie bog some 14,000 years ago – until we came along and drained it. This year, crops in north-west Iowa are looking spotty. Up into Minnesota they were battered by spring storms and late planting, and then inundated again in late summer. Where they aren't washed out, they're weedy or punky. If you go south in Buena Vista county, where I live in Storm Lake, the corn stands tall and firm. Welcome to climate change, Iowa-style. It's the least debated issue of the midterm political season. The weather is the top topic of conversation at any cooperative elevator's coffee table, along with the markets. Everyone knows that things have been changing in sweeping ways out here on the richest corn ground in the world. It's drought in the spring and floods in the fall – what were considered 500-year floods in Cedar Rapids and Des Moines 30 years ago are now considered 100-year floods. Iowa has been getting soggy in spring and fall, with scary dry spells interspersed, and more humid at night by as much as a third since 1980.